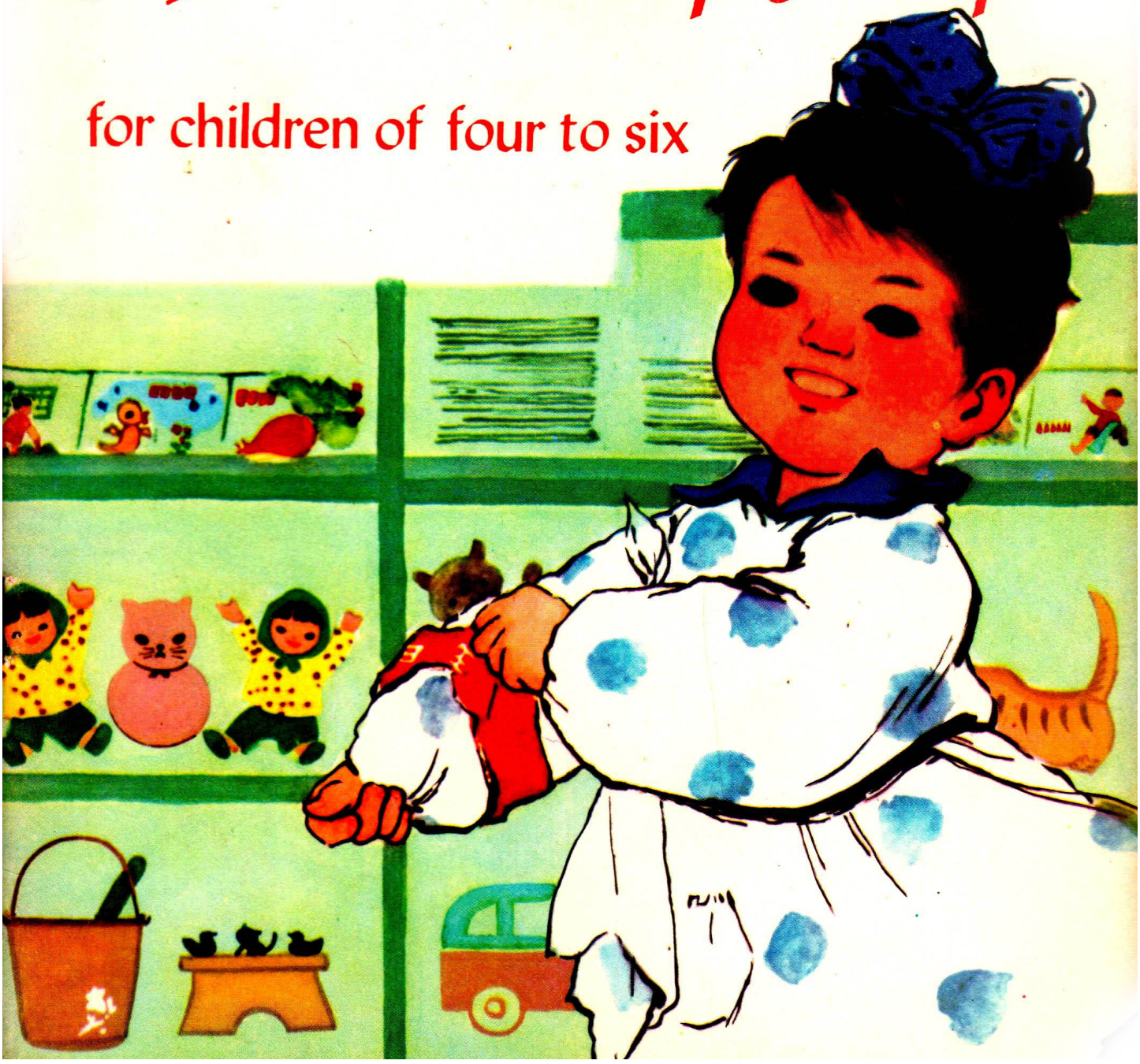
I Am on Duty Today

for children of four to six



Story by Yang Yi and Liang Ke
Illustrations by Gu Yin

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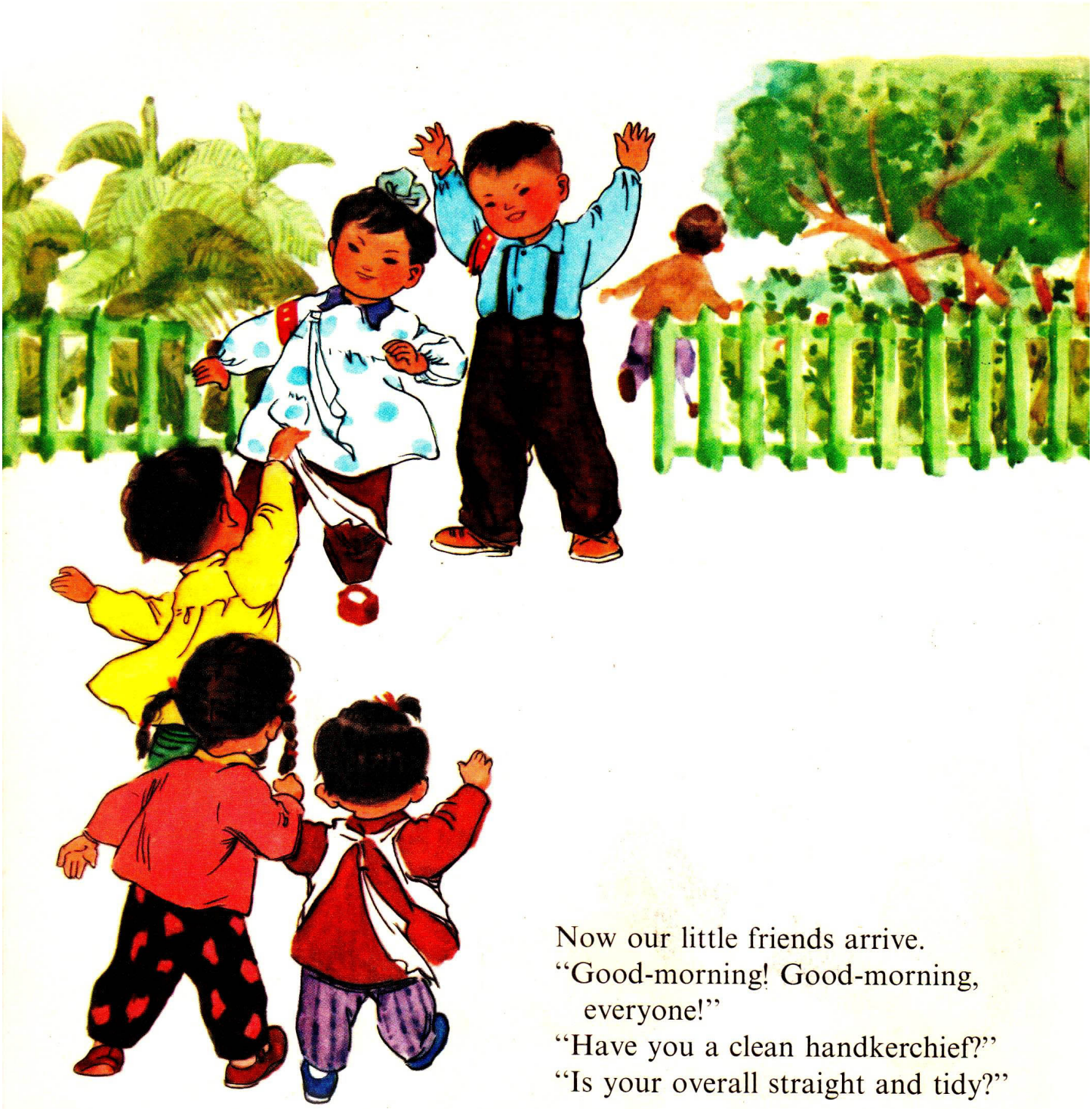
I am on duty today,
Helping in our nursery.
I get up with the sunrise,
And go to work happily.

First, Dongdong helps me move the table,
Then we arrange the chairs.
We tidy the book-shelf
And put the toys in order.

I change the water in the gold-fish bowl;
Dongdong goes to look at the sunflowers.
He fills his basket with fresh grass
And feeds the rabbits, white and grey.



Now our little friends arrive.
"Good-morning! Good-morning,
everyone!"
"Have you a clean handkerchief?"
"Is your overall straight and tidy?"

"Show me your hands, both back and front."
"Did you wash your neck?"
This job must be carefully done,
For we care about cleanliness, though we are small.

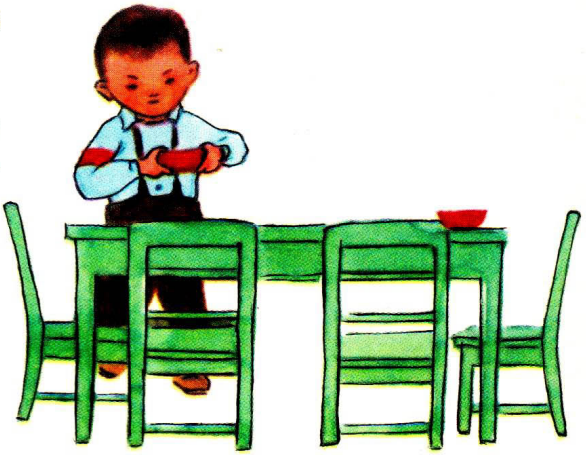
We stretch up high and bend down low.
"One, two; one, two; one, two."
How well we keep together!
Exercising every day keeps us healthy.

Teacher rings the bell, "Ding-ding!"
And now our class begins.
"Sit down, quickly, little friends.
Be quiet, don't make a noise."

I give out the pencils,
Dongdong passes round the paper.
We learn our numbers, then we write,
Listening carefully to our teacher.

Now it is time for drawing.
Today I do not draw houses and trees,
Or high mountains and streams,
But some flying birds.

Dongdong and I put out the little bowls
And we fill them with rice.
Wash your hands quickly, little friends,
It's a good habit to wash before eating.



After dinner we make the beds,
And the children lie down to rest.
When the others are tucked up, I go
to sleep.
Everything is quiet and still.

We wake, and get up from our beds,
And dress ourselves carefully.
"Let me comb your loosened plaits."
It is good to help each other.

After our nap we have refreshments.
Dongdong passes the sweets, I take
round the biscuits.
The large and good ones I give to other children,
And keep the small ones for myself.

We do not climb up trees or windows.
We take good care of the toys we share,
Rocking our wooden horses gently.
If anyone falls, I go to help him.

And now we tidy the tables and chairs,
And put away the books and toys.
All in order for tomorrow,
So our friends on duty will have no trouble.

Today has been my duty day.
I feel happy now my work is finished.
Our teacher praises us and says:
"You have done very well."

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